
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Dryden, Octavia "Penny"

EMAIL: Drydenp2015@gmail.com

POSITION TITLE: Executive Director

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Delaware State University, Dover DE.	B.A.	05/1979	Business Administration
Certified Prevention Specialist, DSAMH Newark, DE		11/2011	Substance Abuse Prevention
Certified FAST Trainer		02/1999	
Licensed Prevention Provider, DSAMH		07/2004	
Certified Life Skills Training Instructor		07/2004	

A. Personal Statement

I embrace the opportunity to serve as Project Manager and Lead Agency for the proposed *Enhanced Air Quality for Delaware Communities* under EPA Grant program. I am currently the executive director of Community Housing & Empowerment Connections Inc. and former executive director of the New Castle County Community Partnership, both combined for a total of thirty plus years of experience in the environmental and social justice field. I have an extensive background in community partnership, capacity and coalition building that led to the development of 10 neighborhood coalitions (Edgemoor, Southbridge, Northeast Wilmington, Westside Wilmington, New Castle, Newark, Middletown/Odessa/Townsend and Route 40 Corridor), 2 countywide coalitions (Wilmington Prevention Coalition and New Castle Prevention Coalition) and 2 statewide community partnerships (Delaware Environmental Justice Community Partnership and Delaware Concerned Residents for EJI recently served as Community Co-PI for a ACCEL Retreat grant and previous PI for a federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) grant to build a bi-level substance abuse prevention infrastructure statewide. I managed the implementation of a federal CSAP Drug Free Communities Grant and Community Coalition Grant Program to implement a nationally recognized substance abuse prevention program (FAST) in two neighborhood coalitions in New Castle County, DE.). Recently, led implementation of a pilot Partnership 4 Air Quality with partners at Christiana Care Health Services and John Hopkins University. I possess the necessary leadership, expertise and training to successfully achieve the aims outlined in the proposed project.

B. Positions and Honors

1986 – 2008 Executive Director, New Castle County Community Partnership Inc.
2001 – Present Executive Director, Community Housing & Empowerment Connections Inc.
2018 – Present Chair, Delaware Environmental Justice Community Partnership
2019 – Present Chair, Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice
2019 – Present Member, Delaware State NAACP Health Committee

C. Contributions to Science

- Community Co-PI for Delaware CRT ACCEL Retreat *Health Impacts of Toxic Pollution: Developing Community Engaged Research* to bring community and researchers together for discussion and development of ideas and partnerships.
- Co-author of *the Environmental Justice for Delaware-Mitigating Toxic Pollution in New Castle County Communities* report (2017) with Union of Concerned Scientists, Environmental Justice Health Alliance, Delaware Concerned Residents for EJ, Coming Clean and Community Housing & Empowerment Connections Inc. This report studies the health risks for seven communities located along an industrial corridor in the northern portion of Delaware's New Castle County. These communities have higher percentages of people of color and/or higher poverty levels than the Delaware average. We found that people in the seven communities face a substantial cumulative health risk from exposure to toxic air pollution and their proximity to polluting industrial facilities, hazardous chemical facilities, and contaminated waste sites. These health risks are substantially greater in comparison to those of a predominantly White and affluent Delaware community as well as Delaware as a whole. Significant and expedited improvements in regulatory and public policy are needed at the national, state, and municipal levels to address these issues.
- Findings from the EJ report influenced Resolution 19-065 sponsored by City of Wilmington City Council Resolution to urge DNREC to consider Cumulative Impacts on environmental justice communities and health risks when issuing construction permits to industrial facilities that impact air quality.

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

- Presenter at the Earthjustice Hearing in Washington DC
- Testify before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrators to prevent roll backs of Regulations that protect communities against chemical disasters.
- Testify before the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to protect against roll backs.
- Member of ACCEL CEO Community Advisory Council
- Member of the State NAACP Health Committee
- Former Member of Delaware Prevention Coalition
- Former Chair of Wilmington Prevention Coalition
- Former Member of Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America-CADCA
- Former Member of Delaware SPF-SIG Advisory Council
- Former Member of Weed and Seed Advisory Council
- Former Member of Delaware Criminal Justice Advisory Council